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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Microbiology
and Immunology

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143

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Dr. Erling Norrby
Department of Virology
Karolinska Institute
SBL
S-105 21
Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Erling:

Thanks for your interesting letter and papers. I agree that the HIV's warrant subdivision, but it doesn't seem that the ICTV needs to sponsor more discussion since everyone (even the NY Times) appears to have accepted HIV-2. I will be interested to see how closely your isolate is related to Montagnier's. I no longer take HTLV-4 seriously; it appears to be contaminating SIV from macaque. I think our original proposal makes clear the way in which isolates of HIV-2 should be identified (e.g. HIV-2 [STH-1]). As of this month, John Coffin at Tufts will take over as chairman of the Retrovirus Study Group and will be the appropriate recipient of correspondence on such matters.

With best regards,

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
American Cancer Society
Professor of Molecular Virology

HEV/jm